

A Winning Combination



The Family Place

The barn at The Family Place is an invitation to the imagination. And the tractor, provided through FSP, is essential to maintaining the 30 acres, which include fishing and swimming ponds.

located on 30 acres near the Ouachita River in Oden. At this place, more than 60 children have discovered what it means to belong, what it means to have hope. Besides creating a safe, loving environment for “their” children, Greg and Cyndi provide food to nearly 200 families on an ongoing basis.

“Because of [FSP], we’ve been able to meet needs that we could never have done otherwise,” Greg says. FSP, part of the Department of Workforce Education, donates federal surplus property to public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, homeless shelters, etc.

By paying only a handling fee for the surplus property, The Family Place has used FSP to update the children’s bedrooms; remodel bathrooms; equip the kitchen with commercial stoves, refrigerators, and walk-in freezers; and streamline its warehouse. The home turns to FSP for used farm equipment and vehicles that are maintained with surplus oil and antifreeze. With a little ingenuity and a lot of hard work, the Heinritzes converted a surplus bus into a recreational vehicle that takes the children on special outings. They’ve also “shopped” at FSP for fun things – like the boats the kids take out on the river.

“The Arkansas Federal Surplus Property program has always allowed us to do much more with our dollars than anyplace else,” Greg says.

For its part, FSP is proud to be part of this winning combination that’s measured in a child’s smile, that’s transformed disconnected lives into a family.

Compassion. A vision. Commitment. And a helping hand. That’s what it takes to make a difference in this world.

The vision for The Family Place was born in 1993 when Greg and Cyndi Heinritz’s premature son spent his six-month life in the intensive care unit at Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

While living those six months with their son, the couple encountered other babies who had been abandoned in their struggle for life. The compassion the Heinritzes felt for those babies turned to a commitment to make a difference.

All they needed to realize and expand their vision was a helping hand. That they found at Federal Surplus Property (FSP).

The Family Place is a nonprofit home for children



Pastimes

Besides providing some of the necessities for life at The Family Place, FSP also has provided some of the fun things – such as this boat and the bus that was turned into an RV.